

Quick Strokes

Subscription, per year \$10

Official organ of the Dvorak International Federation. Issued in June, September, December and March. This is No. 4 of Vol. X, Whole Number 36.

SPRING, 1983

Apple IIe has "built-in" Dvorak

To get the Apple II, invoked to Dvorak

1. Cut "bowtie" at x_1
2. Solder "Blob" at x_2

Use AN2 output; "low" equals Regular keyboard
"high" equals Dvorak keyboard

This is considered "built-in" Dvorak for which we can all be thankful. Please tell your Apple dealers about this significant advance in the progress of the Dvorak keyboard movement. Call or write to Virginia deGanahl Russell for more details (11 Pearl Street, Brandon, Vermont 05733, 802-247-6020 or 802-247-5759). I have the complete internal document for the Dvorak.

Demo in N.J.

New Jersey is progressing well. We have given a successful demonstration in Trenton. On March 11 we gave a demonstration in Newark to an invited gathering of five hundred business college heads, teachers, students, department people.

This day consisted of three separate demonstrations done with Dvorak keyboarders as well as Qwerty people. I spent the day consulting with guests of this demonstration conference on a one-to-one basis with whoever wanted to really talk and ask extensive questions.

My colleague Larry Picatello handled the three sessions. William Scheuer, director of civil service, was one of our speakers. This conference received press coverage. We will report to *Quick Strokes* in the next issue.

Dvorak Federation president's opinion

By Virginia deGanahl Russell

We are now in a new phase of development, i.e., the computer. My strong conviction is that the Dvorak keyboard can be an extremely important part of the computer revolution.

I want to be quoted, as president of DIF, as saying that the use of the Alternate keyboard by today's and tomorrow's users of computers is going to enable these new and potential users to learn a new skill a great deal more easily than on the QWERTY.

Furthermore, this keyboard gives the world a choice. We are not chucking this Alternate keyboard down anyone's throat; we are simply saying that after all this time there is another route to take if one prefers it.

Yes, we want to get into the schools and business colleges, but we must also recognize that there are thousands of business people out there in the world who have been suddenly confronted with keyboard for the first time in their lives. We must aim at them as possible candidates for the Alternate keyboard.

Your left thumb has a role in alternative typing

Barbara Blackburn, well known as the fastest alphanumeric keyboard operator of all, is right handed. For the spacebar, she uses her left thumb.

Why? Check any text. Count the incidence of right- and left-hand strokes preceding a thumbstroke, when the characters are arranged in the alternative, Dvorak pattern.

The farther you count, the greater will be the preponderance of right-side strokes both before the thumbstroke and after it, unless, of course, the text shows too many Japanese or Italian names. Therefore, the left thumb on the spacebar preserves the right, left, right, left rhythm better than the right one does.

By the late, great August Dvorak, a fresh reprint of a basic treatment comparing keyboard arrangements

Again in stock is Dvorak, August, *There Is a Better Typewriter Keyboard*, this time with appendices by participants in vocational applications of the by far! better arrangement of characters.

The title is that of the late professor and captain's article in the December, 1943, National Business Education Quarterly, of which the first eight pages of this 15-page pamphlet are a reprint. The rest of it is appendices by Thurman Clark, Barbara Finley, and Philip Davis.

Clark is the manager of one of several word-processing centers where the alternate arrangement has been in daily use for four years. His contribution is a survey of these applications. Ms. Finley is the proprietor of a business services firm in Bend, Oregon.

The reprint, with the appendices, fills a long-felt want. Everybody knows that conventional typing is the most baffling, infuriating subject that is taught in any school, from the points of view of both the teacher and the student. There is a natural impulse to get rid of the monster — but how? Here is the answer.

There is . . . is \$5 at Quick Strokes, P.O. Box 643, West Sacramento, California 95691, plus 30 cents sales tax to California addresses. Postage and handling are absorbed by the seller.

Keyboard exhibit at Harvard

A two-month typewriter and computer exhibit at the Harvard Science Library began on March 1. Dick Land is in charge of this exhibit, with equipment provided by Ron Lent, of Brandon, Vermont, Professor Edward Montgomery, of Dallas, Texas, and Digital Equipment Corp., of Maynard, Massachusetts.

Tom Booz has sent to Virginia Russell his IBM (the fastest typewriter in the world, says Tom) a Royal and an Underwood Noiseless, all with alternate keyboard arrangements, to be used in the exhibit and then put to use with demonstrations.

Business and typing teacher writes

This is to confirm with many thanks receipt of Quick Strokes, Winter 1982-83. The comments of the paper have been gone through with much interest and attention, particularly those of Dr. Yamada, and other items were also worth reading.

—T. Kimoto, Yawata City, Kyoto, Japan

Hoffman tours sites of West Coast Dvorak keyboard applications

John S. Hoffman's affiliation is the federal Environmental Protection Administration, where he supervises a crew of computer programmers. On the side, he manages an individual proprietorship doing business as Selective Software and Training.

On a recent tour, he made it a point to call at the State Farm Insurance Co. word-processing center in Salem, Oregon, and at the Phil Davis home in Sacramento, California. He also made calls in Portland, Oregon, and in San Francisco.

Hoffman's own equipment is an IBM personal computer, into which he has entered a lookup table for Dvorak keying. He is learning the new arrangement and will rearrange the keyboard buttons at his leisure.

His degrees are a bachelor's in planning from the University of Pennsylvania and a graduate degree in urban economics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was previously engaged in consulting work, with New Alternatives, of Chicago.

Clarification from a keyboard evangelist, expert at conversion

The business address for the Trask Typewriter Service (see Quick Strokes 35, page 2) is 128 Merchants Row, Rutland, Vermont 05701. Brian Trask, proprietor, assures us that his service has the skill and equipment to convert to the better keyboard all models of IBM Selectric typewriters.

Like Quick Strokes, Trask wants people to learn their alternative typing on a machine that is a fine one in other respects besides the character arrangement. The charge for conversion, including cleaning, inspection, and replacement of worn bearings is closer to \$100, plus shipping, than to the figure cited in QS 35.

Trask writes, "Those of us who support the alternative keyboard should be committed enough to it to demand professional-quality keyboards to use, either by conversion of existing equipment, or by telling manufacturers what we want."

Converts Selectric

Oakland, California, 1983 February — "I'd rather do it myself" was my decision after deciding to learn the Dvorak Simplified Keyboard (DSK); i.e., I decided to convert my IBM Correcting Selectric II from QWERTY to a DSK arrangement myself. Besides rearranging the interposers, I also installed the universal vane, which is supposed to be a more difficult task. Yet, I am not a mechanic of any sort.

Though I do not have any figures, I do sense greater speed and fewer errors in the short time I have been typing on a DSK arrangement.

Another Vermont student demonstrator

One of the participants in the demonstration in Trenton and in Newark is Miss Laurie Scarborough, of Brandon, Vermont, who is bilingual on the Dvorak and Qwerty (with an excellent 72 words per minute after many changes back and forth between keyboards due to teacher replacements).

Laurie was very poised in front of the crowd in Trenton and again in Newark. She convinces people in a gracious way of the advantages of the Dvorak. With her hands-on experience on both keyboards she is indispensable to our sessions.

Laurie is just 17 years old. Her idol is none other than our own wonderful friend Barbara Blackburn. Laurie says her goal is to meet Barbara and learn from her.

Byte's Short History of the Keyboard

Byte magazine, in its 1982 November issue, starting on page 286, presents "A Short History of the Keyboard," by Phil Lemmons, Byte's West Coast editor. He remarks that by 1943 the conventional arrangement was "entrenched".

Yes, and it is still behind some earthworks. There are ways to dislodge a dug-in enemy, however, and the artillery doesn't have to be the heaviest.

Isn't it time to roll out the ridicule throwers? What could be more wildly irrational than assigning e and d to the same finger, as the conventional layout does? One other assignment could be and is, and that is the e as an inboard reach, which is the consequence of an alphabetical arrangement, no matter which row it starts in.

"Dvorak wasn't trying to optimize the keyboard for typing 'the'," says Lemmons. True. August Dvorak and his partner had their eyes on the whole language, including a large class of trigraphs in the h-vowel-consonant pattern.

M. H. Adler is cited as accusing the thumbs of "lolling" on the space bar. Not so — the thumb that works that bar is pretty busy, dealing about sixteen per cent of the total of strokes in a simple, repetitive assignment that suits it.

Finally, Lemmons points out that on devices where the keyboard is a plugged-in module, each operator can have a board that matches his skill or his preference.

Chuck Trier calls attention to the right- and left-hand Dvorak arrangements

Below is a letter which has brought in many orders to *Quick Strokes*. Credit *Infoworld*.

Trier is right. There might well be many occasions when one hand is busy and it would be convenient to use a computer keyboard as one does a pen. The conversion to either of the one-hand Dvorak arrangements, given the right disk, is easy. With practice, the stroking sequences can be stored in the operator's kinaesthetic memory so that the input becomes more or less automatic and rapid.

The center for the one-hand keyboards is Typewriting Institute for the Handicapped, 3102 West Augusta Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85021. The *Quick Strokes* reader there is Linda Diamond.

Quick Strokes will continue to supply the reprint of the article from *Handicap* by the late August Dvorak, although we think a dollar — \$1.06 in California — would be a fairer price.

Re: One-hand keyboard (*InfoWorld*, August 16). In 1945, Commander August Dvorak developed simplified one-hand typewriter keyboards for the left hand and right hand. The article, "A One-hand Keyboard for One-handers," is available for 80¢ (85¢, California residents), from: Quick Strokes, Box 643, West Sacramento, California 95691.

An individual using his method achieved a net typing speed of 54 words per minute in only ten weeks. How about combining his alpha arrangement with an expanded numeric keypad? You could use such a data-entry device for invoices, to take notes from a book, for remote control of videotex and so on.

—Chuck Trier, Spokane, WA

THE PARKINSON REPRINT — Eight pages from *Computers and Automation* for 1972 November, by the late R. S. Parkinson, titled "The Dvorak Simplified Keyboard: Forty Years of Frustration," tellingly illustrated. At Quick Strokes, P.O. Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691, \$2.50 or, in California \$2.65.

IN MINT CONDITION — A few copies of the seminal work *Typewriting Behavior*, by Dvorak, Dealey, Merrick, and Ford. Hard cover, 521 pages including index and appendix, it comprises the team's report to the Carnegie Foundation on typing teaching, typing learning, and machine design. \$30 at Quick Strokes, P.O. Box 643, West Sacramento, CA. To California addresses, \$31.80.

HANDI-KEYS CUSTOM DESIGNS KEYBOARDS FOR TRS-80 MODEL II. ENTER TEXT FOR ANALYSIS OF KEYS USED BY EACH FINGER AND HAND. MACHINE LANGUAGE DRIVER CHANGES KEYBOARD TO DVORAK, ONE-HANDED, OR USER-DEFINED. ANALYZE TYPING LESSONS. DISKETTE AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR \$36.

RONALD MC CUSTON
5795 ADELIN ROAD
PENSACOLA, FL 32504

STARTING MANUAL FOR ALTERNATIVE KEYING — Titled *Simplified Keyboard Supplement* and written by the late, great August Dvorak and others, it contains Lessons 1 to 5 and 16 to 19.

It merges with any full-length typing manual or with practice material of your choice. Three dollars at Speedy Keyboard Ent. Inc., P.O. Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691. In California, add 18¢ tax.

DVORAK SELECTRIC ELEMENT — Please specify pica or elite type; please specify whether for a Selectric, or a Selectric I or II, or a Selectric III. Arrangement is close to the classic Dvorak, digits reading, left to right 7, 5, 3, 1; 9 for the left hand, and right to left, 8, 6, 4, 2, 0 for the right hand. \$111 dollars at Speedy Keyboard Enterprises, Inc. P.O. Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691, telephone 916-446-3377. A starting manual, the *Simplified Keyboard Supplement*, is included. Two sheets of 77 half-inch round press-on labels with the alphabet, extra vowels, punctuation, and digits are included. Pairing of digits and special symbols corresponds to the Dvorak Selectric arrangement. Delivery in two weeks after receipt of order and payment. In California, add 6% tax.

At long last — standard status for the good arrangement

Under the subhead OFFICE MACHINES AND SUPPLIES, in column two on page 5 of the 1982 December 10 *Standards Action*, we read:

"ANSI X4.22-1983, Alternative Keyboard Arrangement for Alphanumeric machines (new standard) (adoption being considered by DoD).

"Provides an alternative performance-oriented keyboard arrangement to BSR X4.23, Keyboard Arrangement for Alphanumeric Machines, which is equally applicable to all alphanumeric keyboard devices. Approval date: November 19, 1982."

The source for the standard is American National Standards Institute, 1430 Broadway, New York, NY 10018. The single-copy price is \$6. The 1983 ANSI catalog is \$10, at the same address. A stock of the standard is on hand at DIF East, P.O. Box 128, Brandon, VT 05733.

Please join the Dvorak International Federation

Quick Strokes volumes run from June of one year through March of the next. This issue ends Vol. X. A gratifying number of readers have paid up for Vol. XI, as all should. Subs are due and payable in advance. A year's subscription is \$10.

A subscription to QS will include a membership in the Dvorak International Federation if you write something on the check to show you want DIF membership. The difference is that a DIF member's address will be supplied to the organizer of a state or local branch whenever the organizer is appointed.

Nonmember subscribers to QS learn the address of the local organizer from the columns of *Quick Strokes*. If the subscription comes in through DIF, P.O. Box 128, Brandon, VT 05733, it will be assumed that it is a membership. Another difference: If the sub comes in through DIF West, at the *Quick Strokes* address, it may start sooner.

Back issues of QS are \$2.50 a copy as long as the volume is current, that is, QSES 33, 34, 35, and 36 are that price until the 1983 June issue has been mailed. Earlier volumes are sold by the volume, at \$2 per volume. Some of the earlier volumes are of fewer than four issues. QS 7 is incomplete.

Bundle orders of from five copies on up can be had at reduced rates.

Prosoft Dvorak Tutor is considered helpful in some cases

The *Quick Strokes* evaluator, who wishes to remain anonymous, reports that the Prosoft Dvorak Tutor, kindly provided by Debbie Tesler, would be helpful in cases that are more or less typical, where the learner is undergoing solitary self instruction. The uniform interval for the "new line" function interferes with accurate timing of the input.

This does not much matter where progress is a matter of subjective judgment. The QS editor's view is that taking the exercises off the screen is poor practice. A book or pamphlet can be placed on an easel or laid flat. The screen requires the reader to look up.

The learner's practice sessions consist, necessarily, of copying. Word processing in action consists of compilation and editing. We don't take down what we see on the screen; we alter it.

Prosoft is at P. O. Box 560, North Hollywood, California 91603.

IN STOCK AGAIN — Reprint of the landmark article "The Dvorak Simplified Keyboard: Forty Years of Frustration", from *Computers and Automation* (now *Computers and People*), by the late R. S. Parkinson. Eight pages, illustrated, analyzing the faults of the conventional arrangement and the merits of the better one and accounting in part for the latter's slow headway in the typewriter era, before the boom in personal and small-office computers. Dated 1972. At *Quick Strokes*, P.O. Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691, \$2 plus, in California, 12 cents tax, plus, everywhere, 50 cents for postage and handling.

Blackburn on TV again

"Barbara Blackburn is the world's fastest typist and will appear tonight at 7 on KATU TV's "Faces and Places," says the Conversation column in the Salem (Oregon) Statesman-Journal for 1983 March 17. The columnist is Gloria Bledsoe. "My fingers fly, too," Bledsoe writes. Indeed, they do, Ma'am — all over the place.

Please note, whenever you see this segment or one like it, how Barbara's hands remain almost stationary, and compare your own hands on conventional, moving constantly forward and back, sidewise, and especially up and down, ninety percent of the motion wasted.

Bledsoe mentions Barbara's place in the Guinness book and her employment at State Farm Insurance Companies.

Readers should write to Programmer at their own local station asking for this segment to be shown.

Why "alternate"?

The change in terminology from "alternative" to "alternate" keyboard arrangement is the contribution of editors at ANSI (American National Standards Institute). *Quick Strokes* approves. "Alternative" means "you can have either one but not both." "Alternate" means "switching" or "switchable" back and forth.

This describes the equipment on which the alternate arrangement is now, and will be increasingly, used. We Dvorak-skilled people perceive only dimly any reason why anyone would want to switch to the cumbersome conventional arrangement of characters on a keyboard when the better one is right there.

This is the feature that puts the better arrangement into a new era. It refutes the ancient objection on grounds of ancient equipment. The other objection, to giving operators any breaks for retraining, has retreated. The tendency is to portray retraining as even easier than it is.

FOR SALE: Almost new SCM Coronamatic 2200 with ASK Dvorak keyboard. Carrying case and short ASK typing course manual included. \$400 or best offer. Katie Collins (219 234 0131 or P.O. Box 4123, South Bend, IN 46634

FOR RENT — Motion picture film, "Motion Study of the Dvorak Simplified Keyboard," 16mm., black and white, silent, 20 minutes. Old but good. View it more than once, the better to appreciate the difference in hand position. \$10 per week. Order from *Quick Strokes*, Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691.

STILL AVAILABLE — with the alternative (ASK) arrangement of characters, the Coronamatic 8000 office typewriter from Smith-Corona at \$535, the Coronamatic 2500 portable at \$439, plus, in California, 6% sales tax. Delivery in 120 days after receipt of order and payment. Speedy Keyboard Ent. Inc., P.O. Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691, telephone 916-446-3377.

FOR RENT — Videotape, "Typewriters: Dvorak Made a Better One," narrated by Albert C. Kolb, Carmel (California) Middle School, time 14 minutes and 19 seconds. Narrator and secretary demonstrate on interesting and innovative alternative to the standard keyboard. Motivates student interest in the typewriter and in developing skills. In UCA 30 cassette. Per week \$10. Shipping weight 1 lb., 12 ozs. *Quick Strokes*, Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691.


MODERN KEYBOARDS
by KOLB

SCM -ASKs

2500s
Classic 12s

1770 Juarez St., Seaside, CA 93955
(408) 394-4284

Why join the Dvorak federation?

The reason for joining the Dvorak International Federation is to lend strength to the good right arm of the Dvorak movement. The movement is much broader than the individual memberships that comprise DIF thus far. Influential circles in the United States and abroad are looking forward to a groundswell of popularity for the better character arrangement.

Some of the business corporations that may be regarded as forward-looking in this sense are not adverse to making large contributions to an incorporated, nonprofit educational association whose aims are in the public interest — which defines the federation.

Such forces must be waiting for two things, tax exemption for contributions to the federation first and, second, a showing that the federation leads a significant and growing number of followers. How can the following be recorded except as memberships in DIF? No way!

So the answer is that if you want to make the better keyboard more readily available, the first thing to do is to join DIF, P.O. Box 128, Brandon, VT 05733 or, if you want the long end of the split to go to DIF West and *Quick Strokes*, subscribe directly at P.O. Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691, the address for both the bulletin and its sponsor.

The rational arrangement cannot be said to be out of the woods, standard status notwithstanding, until a much wider public has been reached. As DIF and its organ reach out, career prospects for Dvorak-skilled operators, always attractive, will brighten, and so will the prospects of supervisors and managers who have had experience with the better keyboard.

DSK and DIF are sweet melon in the bitter desert of Bureaucratic minds. Keep going. — Andrew Wigent, Pontiac, Michigan.

FOR SALE: Almost new SCM Coronamatic 2200 with ASK keyboard. Carrying case and short ASK typing course manual included. \$300 or best offer. Katie Collins (219-234-0131 or P.O. Box 4123, South Bend, IN 46634.

McWilliams must be selling well

A brief mention of Quick Strokes and the "Better Keyboard" reprint in *The Word Processing Book*, by Peter McWilliams (Ballantine-Prelude, 1982) has brought in numerous orders, from all sections of the United States and Canada, for the reprint and sample copies of the DIF organ. We will continue to fill orders at the quoted price of six dollars, plus, in California, thirty cents for sales tax. The samples are not subject to tax.

We soon ran out of stock on the first edition of the reprint and also of the Parkinson pamphlet. Supplies of *There Is...* are ample for the moment, and we will try to keep stocked on the Parkinson *Forty Years*...

We have caught ads for TWPB in the *New Yorker* and in the San Francisco *Chronicle and Examiner*, revealing the faith that the publisher has in it. It is sales and inquiries that build faith, and that goes for equipment, too.

Yamada in Computer, organ of the organized electronic engineers

See *Computer*, 1983 March, pages 80 and 81, for Hisao Yamada's landmark article, "The Dvorak simplified keyboard: Practice belies theory."

In it, the distinguished professor pokes gentle fun at investigators who publish conclusions without ever seating themselves at an alternate-arrangement keyboard, without pretraining or retraining even one operator, and without checking with people who do have some hands-on experience.

In Yamada's opinion, the main advantage of Dvorak keying is the operator's relative freedom from emotional tension and bodily fatigue. The beyond-expectation improvements in production per shift that have been recorded in some all-Dvorak or partly Dvorak workrooms are ascribed to sustained paces at the end of a shift.

The investigation on which Yamada's observations are based was made in Japan, with one operator, typing connected discourse in a language, English, in which she did have experience and conventional skill.

He remarks, "... simple 'extrapolative' computations of DSK that are based on QWERTY data are inadequate estimations."

Computer is the organ of the computer section of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers.

Quick Strokes

Box 643
West Sacramento, California 95691

Telephone 916-446-3377

Philip Davis, Publisher